

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
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Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

Further Characterization of Radiologically Impacted Material at West Lake Landfill Superfund Site to Begin Week of May 11

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Lenexa, Kan., May 7, 2015) – EPA Region 7 has approved the work plans necessary to launch a new round of scientific sampling aimed at further characterizing and defining the extent of radiologically impacted material (RIM) at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo.

The new round of sampling at West Lake, which will involve Gamma Cone Penetration Testing (GCPT) and core sampling, will begin Monday, May 11. Focusing on Areas 1 and 2 of the site's Operable Unit 1, the work will be done by contractors hired by the site's potentially responsible parties, and will occur under EPA's oversight.

All told, the sampling will include approximately 14 new GCPT borings along the western and southwestern margins of Area 1, and corresponding sonic drilling near each of those locations. Instruments will be pressed into the ground and lowered into the holes to measure for radiation. Core samples brought to the surface will be screened on site, and sent to off-site labs for further analysis. As part of its oversight, EPA will collect and analyze split samples.

EPA expects the data gathered by this additional sampling to result in more accurate estimates of the volumes of RIM in Operable Unit 1. Those estimates of RIM volume will be used by EPA to more thoroughly explore and evaluate alternative remedies for the West Lake Landfill, including full and partial excavation.

"Ultimately, we expect the evaluation of this additional data and other information derived from the new round of work will help inform EPA's final remedy selection process for the site," said EPA Region 7 Acting Administrator Mark Hague.

Contractors are expected to complete the field portion of the survey work in four to eight weeks, depending on weather conditions. Lab analyses are anticipated to be complete by late summer or early fall, and data evaluation and preparation of reports by the contractors is expected to be complete by early January. EPA is committed to sharing final results of the survey with the public.

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Learn more about EPA's work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site:
http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm

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